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FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6900  
INFO RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY PRIORITY 1432  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 1428  
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 0310  
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0057  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1469  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1458  
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 0533  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0802  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1409  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1358  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8778 PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1383  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1317  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 0539  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0034  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1228  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1459  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1507  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1009  
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN PRIORITY 0029  
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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

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SUBJECT: TAJIK STUDENTS DEMAND APOLOGY FROM EMBASSY OVER 2004 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: 05 DUSHANBE 2014

11. Students from Tajikistan's Technological University published an open letter March 2 criticizing by name an Embassy Public Affairs Section FSN for distributing the State Department's 2004 Human Rights Report on Tajikistan. The students charge the report with being slanderous and inaccurate. They said the report does not give enough attention to positive steps Tajikistan has made towards improving human rights. They fear the publication and distribution of such "black information" undermines Tajikistan's international reputation. Claiming the employee offended the Tajik people's dignity, and motivated by patriotism, the students demanded an apology from the Embassy employee to the students and the Tajik government. Two newspapers have published this open letter so far.

12. During a human rights roundtable at Tajik Technological University December 12, EmbOffs distributed Russian-language copies of last year's Human Rights Report on Tajikistan and engaged students in a two-hour conversation (ref). Prior to December 12, the government purposely tried to block EmbOffs from holding the roundtable. Post originally approached the Russian-government-sponsored Russian-Tajik Slavonic University to host a discussion on human rights. When the Russian Embassy vetoed that plan, Post asked Tajik Technological University, but was refused by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the Embassy hand-delivered a diplomatic note to the president's adviser, the government finally relented at the last minute and allowed EmbOffs to speak with students at the Technological

University.

13. COMMENT: Given the government's original disapproval of the human rights discussion with students, post suspects the government had a hand in the open letter, although it was attributed to the students. The letter is an attempt to discredit the Human Rights Report-the 2005 version is slated for a March 8 release. Post will send the media a response letter from the Ambassador. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND